PLANNING SERIES

STURGEON RIVER PROVINCIAL PARK

Interim Management Statement

Ontario
Ministry of Natural Resources

Hon. Vincent G. Kerrio
Minister

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Deputy Minister

Ministry of
Natural
Resources

Ontario

July 28, 1986

REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL STATEMENT

This Interim Management Statement will provide interim direction for the management of Sturgeon River Provincial Park until a comprehensive Park Management Plan is prepared.

This statement will provide the basis for the subsequent preparation of the Park Management Plan.

I am pleased to approve this Interim Management Statement for Sturgeon River Provincial Park.

M. A. Klugman
Regional Director
Northeastern Region

3583

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Additional information about the park and copies of this publication are available from the District Manager, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 3500, Station "A", Sudbury, Ontario, P3A 4S2, telephone: (705) 522-7823.

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STURGEON RIVER PROVINCIAL PARK
INTERIM MANAGEMENT STATEMENT

I LAND TENURE

A section of the Sturgeon River, some 75 km, is approved for designation as a provincial park. The park includes 5000 ha of Crown land. There are no dispositions by patent within the park.

Guidelines

The waterway and adjoining lands will be retained for provincial park purposes. Mineral exploration and development will be permitted through exploratory licences of occupation (see Commercial Activities Section).

II EXISTING AND PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

Prior to provincial park designation, the area was part of a Crown land canoe route. There are 24 portages within the waterway, some being optional dependant on water depth and skill levels of canoeists. A number of suitable campsites provide camping opportunities - 23 campsites are designated.

The waterway is in a remote part of the Sudbury Administrative District and abuts the southwest corner of Temagami Administrative District.

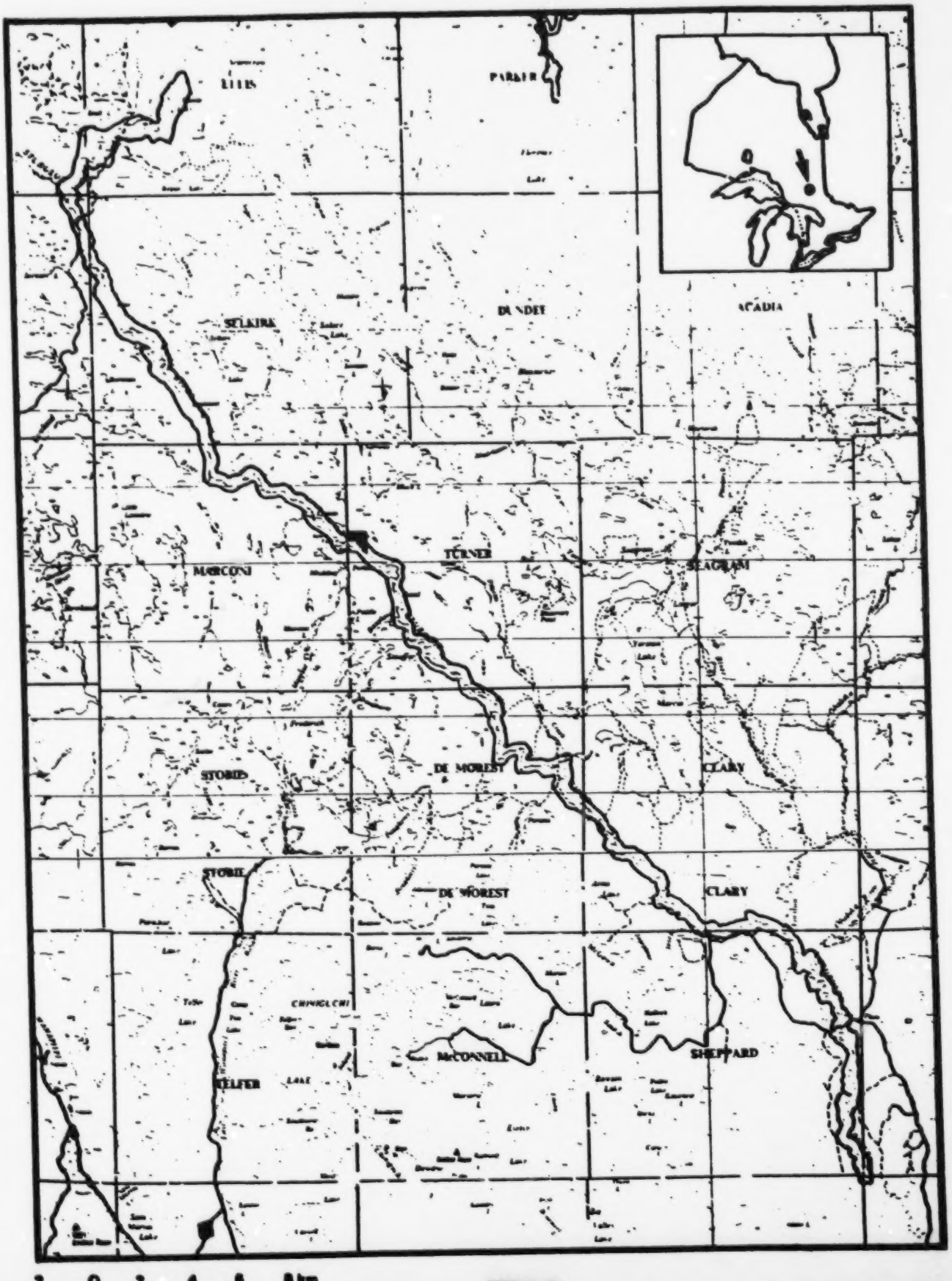
Roads have developed in the area as a result of timber resource activities to the south of the park. Two roads cross the park - the Portelance in the north and the Goulard in the south. These roads are maintained when logging companies have forest operations in the area. The shift of active logging operations to other areas in recent years has meant that these roads have not been maintained for a few years; and in 1985, both road crossings within the park were washed out.

Guidelines:

Portages will be signed and monitored through periodic field inspections as funds and priorities permit. Park visitors will be encouraged to leave no trace at campsites and to clear obstructions on portages as they travel (see Visitor Services).

The forest access roads south of the park will not be maintained through park operations. These roads may only be upgraded as resource extractions activities move into adjacent areas.

STURGEON RIVER
PROVINCIAL PARK



Backcountry linkages with other areas will be maintained. Lady Evelyn-Smoothwater Provincial Park to the north and Crown land canoe routes south and east of the Sturgeon River will constitute a network of routes bringing visitors to the waterway.

III RECREATION ACTIVITIES

Canoeing, sportfishing, backcountry camping, and hunting occur in the park. All of these activities have experienced a significant reduction of use in the park because of discontinued road access from the south.

Guidelines:

Existing recreational activities will continue as long as park values are not affected. The Sudbury Administrative District will monitor the levels and patterns of use. Regulations governing recreational use will apply (eg. Provincial Parks Act, Public Lands Act, Game and Fish Act, etc.).

IV COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

A portion of a trapline occurs within the park. Mineral exploration has been active in the area in the past and will continue. Commercial tourism has occurred through aircraft landings on some of the wider lake portions of the park.

Guidelines:

Trapping will continue as per the terms of the trapline. Mineral exploration and development will be permitted through the policies and guidelines for exploratory licences of occupation, which will be administered by the Ontario Ministry of Northern Development and Mines. Mineral exploration is currently limited by the Temagami Indian Land Claim.

There will be no aggregate extraction or commercial forestry within the park.

V NATIVE INTERESTS

Sturgeon River Provincial Park is within an area affected by an Indian land claim, which is described in detail in the Sudbury Mining Recorder's Office.

In August 1973, the Bear Island Foundation, Gary Potts, William Twain, and Maurice Mackenzie Jr. filed Cautions under The Land Titles Act thereby preventing the registration of Crown patents or leases in 110 townships in the Districts of Timiskaming, Sudbury, and Nipissing. This was modified in 1978 to include another 21 townships. These Cautions were registered to:

- assert a land claim, claiming title in fee simple to the 131 townships, asserting that their title has never been ceded, surrendered, or purchased;

- stop the proposed Maple Mountain development.

In May 1974, a hearing was convened by the Director of Titles to "determine whether the said Cautions should prevent the registration of Crown grants of lands affected by the Cautions". In November 1976, the Ontario Cabinet, on the recommendation of the Minister of Natural Resources, instructed that legal action be undertaken to attempt to remove the Cautions.

In 1978, the 131 townships under Caution were withdrawn from taking and recording of mining claims under Section 38(f) [now section 31(f)] of The Mining Act.

Guidelines:

At the time of writing, the Cautions were in effect. Persons interested in the area and the ongoing status of the Caution should contact the Sudbury Mining Recorder.

VI NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

There have been no studies or inventories of natural and cultural resources in the park. Some background information is available in the Sudbury Administrative District Office.

Guidelines:

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources will encourage natural and cultural resource studies and inventories. This information will be collected for cultural and natural resource management and provincial park management planning purposes.

Forest protection (eg. fire and insect infestation management) will continue through district management efforts.

VII VISITOR SERVICES

Information about the park is available in the canoe route description in the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources publications from Temagami and Sudbury Administrative Districts.

Guidelines:

There will be no visitor services developments in the park. The canoe route will continue to be described in the government publications with the addition of the provincial park boundary and an appropriate discussion of basic information for park visitors funds and priorities permitting. A fact sheet will also be available upon request to identify the park's location, access, and additional sources of information.

VIII RESEARCH

Research by government agencies, universities, other institutions, or individuals can be permitted through the policy for research in provincial parks.

Guidelines:

Applications for research are available from the Sudbury Administrative District Office. Completed applications can be submitted for approval subject to the District Manager's review.

IX MARKETING

The Sturgeon River is a waterway class of provincial park adjacent to the Lady Evelyn-Smoothwater Provincial Park. Various tourism publications identify the area as a canoe route.

Guidelines:

The public will be made aware of the provincial park status of the waterway. Marketing efforts for the Lady Evelyn-Smoothwater Provincial Park will also promote the use of the Sturgeon River Provincial Park.

SELECTED REFERENCES

Noble, T., Sturgeon River Life Science Check Sheet for Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, 1982.

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Sudbury District Canoe Routes, 1984.

Backgrounder Land Use Guidelines, 1983.

Sudbury District Land Use Guidelines, 1983.